

# THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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## Allen, Hill and Jackson set standard

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor  
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

The Kentucky Air National Guard has named its top three airmen to represent the unit in the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year competition.

Chief Master Sgt. Robert G. Allen, Tech. Sgt. William Hill Jr. and Senior Airman Christopher L. Jackson were named the top enlisted members of the KyANG by Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild and a board of chiefs.

Allen is the component repair flight chief for the 123rd Maintenance Squadron. A member of the KyANG for more than 30 years, he has served in a variety of positions, including chief of quality assurance and equipment repair flight chief.

His broad background and maintenance expertise earned him the distinction of being the Airlift Rodeo umpire team chief for the last six competitions.

This past year, Allen took on the monumental task of managing the entire wing maintenance budget.

His commander, Maj. Johnny Jones, said he's done "an incredible job" handling the budget.

"He kept us flying all year," Jones said. "In spite of severe budget cuts, he made sure we had enough money each quarter and kept our budget on track."

Allen's skills in budget management were recognized by the Guard Bureau and he was named the single point of contact for C-130 H 2.5 units for depot-level repair funding.

In that position, he provides feedback to the depot on the expenses and needs of all H 2.5 C-130 units.

Allen said he was humbled by the



## *Airmen of the Year*



**ABOVE:** Senior Airman Christopher Jackson, a communications and navigation specialist in the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, earned his title because of his determination to exceed all expectations, supervisors say.

**LEFT:** Chief Master Sgt. Robert Allen is a 30-year member of the Kentucky Air Guard who took on the monumental task of managing the wing's maintenance budget during severe funding cutbacks.

KyANG photos  
By Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley

honor of being named the unit's outstanding senior NCO.

"I feel truly honored, proud and humbled. I feel like what I've done and accomplished is just the normal course of business."

Allen is active in church activities and

coaches several youth sports. He and his wife, Lois, have four children and three grandchildren.

Hill, the KyANG's outstanding NCO, is

**See AIRMEN on Page 5**

# Wing's vision must be clearly understood by all members

**I**t is critically important that all members of the 123rd know and understand where we are going, and how we intend to get there. The Wing Strategic Plan outlines why we are here — Our Mission — and what we want to be — Our Vision.

It then goes on to outline how we want to operate and lists specific goals and objectives that, if attained, will allow us to perform our mission and reach our vision.

The vision for the 123rd — what we want to be — is simply this:

**A powerful, harmonious military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war and provide world class service to community, state and nation.**

This is a short and simple statement of what each member of the Thoroughbred Express should want to make this wing become. Leadership is committed to this vision, but it will take the understanding and commitment of each member to make it happen. Because I want everyone in the wing to fully understand this vision, this column over the next several months will break it down into its various parts and explain what I mean.

The first phrase I would like to explain is "A powerful, harmonious military organization." In this context, the word "powerful" means that the 123rd, and every member in it, is respected and listened to when he or



**Col. Michael L. Harden**  
*123rd Airlift Wing Commander*

she goes on a deployment, to a conference, to a school or a community event, or simply picks up the phone and calls the Guard Bureau or his Air Force counterpart.

We can only garner this respect if we decide to dedicate ourselves to be the best airmen, NCOs or officers that we can be.

We must constantly strive to take care of business and have our "stuff together" if we are to have the immediate credibility necessary to become "powerful."

A perfect example of this is our Military Personnel Flight, which has been named the ANG Outstanding Military Personnel Flight of the year for three out of the last four years. Because of their reputation for having their "stuff together," they have immediate credibility when they go to the Guard Bureau and

ask for something. They are consulted by other units, and their opinion is listened to — and acted upon — by policy makers nationwide. They are a "powerful" organization, and they lend credibility to every member of the 123rd.

"Harmonious," simply put, means that everyone is in tune with each other and singing the same song. For the 123rd, the words to the song are found in our plan, and everything that we do should be aimed at achieving our vision and accomplishing the specific goals and objectives in the plan.

This does not mean that everyone acts the same, has the same personality, or comes from the same background or culture. It means that when disagreements occur, and they will everyday, that they are resolved in favor of the wing mission and not some personal or organizational agenda.

The key to this harmony is open and honest communication. Honesty brings trust, and without trust, true communication does not happen.

"Harmonious" also means that everyone in the 123rd feels comfortable and a real part of the wing. This means embracing all members, regardless of gender, race or religion. If one person feels left out or put upon because of his or her gender or color, we have failed to achieve our vision. This unit is a reflection of our community, and we should mirror community demographics if we are to recruit and retain into the 21st century.

We have a ways to go in this regard, and we will energize our new Human Resource Force Managers and existing Human Rela-

**See VISION on Back Page**

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The Cargo Courier will not publish in March or April.  
Deadline for the next issue is April 15.

An electronic version of The Cargo Courier is available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.kyang.win.net>

## COAT CRUSADE



Staff Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG

**Senior Master Sgt. Ronald I. George, Master Sgt. Lynn Barney and Airman 1st Class Laura Mabe of the 123rd Aerial Port Squadron sort winter coats collected last month for Operation Overcoat. The program, which was sponsored by the squadron and the wing chaplain's office, collected more than 100 articles of winter wear for Louisville's Wayside Christian Mission.**

## Bean Soup Feast revived

**By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor**

After a three-year hiatus, the Kentucky Air Guard's traditional Bean Soup Feast is making a comeback.

The once-annual event, which fell victim to base relocation efforts in 1995, is tentatively set for March 26, said Chief Master Sgt. David Orange, senior enlisted advisor for the 123rd Airlift Wing.

In addition to a meal of bean soup, corn bread, cole slaw and potato salad, the feast will give visitors a chance to tour the wing's facilities, Orange said.

A C-130 will be on display, as will equipment employed by the 123rd Special Tactics Flight.

"This event will allow for both military

families and our community friends to visit our facility and get a look at what we do," Orange said.

"A good meal along with a tour of our base allows us to forge better bonds with each other and the community."

Tickets for the feast are \$2.50 for children and \$5 for adults. They will be distributed for sale to Guardmembers this weekend, and tickets also will be sold at the door, Orange said.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the WHAS Crusade for Children and other community service agencies.

Orange said he would like the feast to once again become an annual event, but a final decision has yet to be made."

For more information, contact Orange at ext. 4444. ☎

## 123rd LG seeking executive officer

The 123rd Logistics Group is seeking candidates to fill a captain's slot as the unit's executive officer.

Applications and resumés may be submitted to Col. Gary Logan, 123rd Logistics Group commander, no later than Feb. 8.

Officer candidates who have been certified by the wing's Officer Certification Board are eligible to apply.

For more information, call Maj. Kristie Jones at ext. 4254. ☎

## Cargo Courier, Greer receive national awards

For the third consecutive year, The Cargo Courier has been named one of the top publications in the National Guard.

The paper earned second place in its division for best overall newspaper during judging last month for the 1997 National Guard Media Contest.

A panel of top civilian and military journalists judged Army and Air National Guard newspapers from across the country before reaching its decisions.

First place went to the Minnesota Air National Guard's Northstar Guardian, but both papers will advance to the next round of competitions, the Air Force Media Contest, to be held later this month.

The Cargo Courier's editor, Staff Sgt. Dale Greer, also received two individual awards.

Greer earned first place in the contest's newswriting competition, and he was named National Guard Journalist of the Year.

In 1996, The Cargo Courier shared honors for best newspaper with the Oregon Air National Guard's Aircoop.

The previous year, the KyANG newspaper placed second in its division to the Northstar Guardian.



# Redesigned tag wins top prize in competition

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor

Kentucky's new National Guard license plate has been voted one of the best graphic designs of the year by the National Guard Bureau.

The plate, designed by KyANG graphic artist Master Sgt. Terry Lutz, received first place in its category during the 1997 National Guard Visual Information Awards.

The wing's Visual Information Section also received several other honors in the contest, including second-place awards for a news photo taken by Senior Airman Tom Downs, and the cover layout of the Thunder Over Louisville souvenir program, which was designed by Lutz.

The license plate design and cover layout both will move on to the Air Force competition to be held later this year.

"Our graphic artists, photographers and videographers do a great job year-round, but it's nice to see their hard work recognized like this," said Senior Master Sgt. Dave Tinsley, chief of base visual information.

Other awards won by the section:



**ABOVE:** This new license plate design took first prize for three-dimensional graphics in the National Guard Bureau's 1997 Visual Information Awards.

**BELOW RIGHT:** The cover for the KyANG's Thunder Over Louisville souvenir book won second place.

- Third place feature photo — Tech. Sgt. Scott Mullins
- Honorable mention, electronic brochure (KyANG Web site) — Lutz
- Honorable mention, photo pictorials and feature photo — Mullins
- Honorable mention, portrait and picture story — Downs

Images of the winning photos and designs can be viewed at the wing's Internet web site, located at [www.kyang.win.net](http://www.kyang.win.net).

Click on the Art and Photo Gallery button and select the "awards" link.



## New Guard license plate unavailable to some

By Staff Sgt. Dale Greer  
Cargo Courier Editor

The Kentucky National Guard may have a new license plate design, but some Guardmembers won't be able to purchase the distinctive plate until at least December.

Gov. Patton ordered that the new plates be available as of January 1, 1998, but county clerks won't issue plates to guardmembers who currently have old style plates on their vehicles.

That's because the old plates still have a few months left in their five-year life span, said Maj. Steve Bullard, who has researched the issue with the Transportation Cabinet.

"If you do not currently have a Kentucky Guard plate, you may now obtain the new one at the county clerk's office by paying the Kentucky Guard license plate fee, which is about \$30, Bullard said.

"If you do currently have the old Kentucky Guard plate, you may not swap out the old plate for the new one until December 1998.

"That is when the old plates will expire, since they have a life of five years, and they must be swapped out for the new plate."

Bullard notes that there is no charge for the swapout except normal renewal fees, which customarily cost no more than \$3.

Guardmembers who have the old plates and can't bear to wait until December for

the new design do have an expensive option to circumvent the state's rules, Bullard said.

"If you have the old plate and you really want the new one now badly enough, you must go to the county clerk and return your old Guard plate and purchase a new standard Kentucky plate for your vehicle," Bullard explained.

"Once that is established in the state's computer system, you can then return your new standard plate and make what's called a new initial purchase of the new Kentucky Guard plate.

"If you do this, you will, in effect, be paying for two extra license plates. Personally, I'd just wait until December for the swapout at no extra cost."

## Base runners organizing for Mini-Marathon

The base running team is organizing Guard members for the 13.1-mile Mini-Marathon to be held April 25.

If enough people express interest, the team may enter in the Corporate Cup division of the race, said Lt. Col. Dan Wells, who is heading up the effort.

Wells said Air Guard runners also may team up with their Army Guard counterparts.

Some of the wing's athletes already have begun training for the Mini-Marathon, Wells said, by running in the Hangover Classic on New Year's Day.

Tech. Sgt. Chris Emly, Tech. Sgt. Kris Evans, Maj. Neil Mullaney, Chief Master Sgt. David Orange, Saff Sgt. Tom Schardein, Senior Airman Travis Silvers and Senior Master Sgt. Jim Smith all participated in the 10-mile run.

For more information on the base running team, call Wells at ext. 4465 or Smith at ext. 4488. 📞

## Commander seeks e-mail addresses

The wing is compiling a listing of KyANG members who have personal e-mail accounts.

To make the listing as complete as possible, the commander is asking everyone to send their personal e-mail addresses to mharden@KYSDF.ANG.AF.MIL.

## Cwiak named to top AGS post

Senior Master Sgt. Richard Cwiak has been named NCOIC of the 123rd Aircraft Generation Squadron. Cwiak previously was production superintendent.

# Airmen represent unit's best

Continued from Page 1

a combat controller assigned to the 123rd Special Tactics Flight. He is the only traditional guardsman in the unit who serves as a 7-level team leader on special operations missions.

Hill also is the team's expert on self-defense tactics and techniques. He's always willing to share his expertise with unit members and even provided some instruction to a SEAL team during a recent deployment, said Chief Master Sgt. Bill Smith, the flight superintendent.

"He's mission oriented, knowledgeable, and a real leader," Smith said.

Hill's expertise is also recognized outside the KyANG. He augmented the active duty 621st Special Tactics Squadron during its successful operational readiness inspection and augmented the Air Force Special Operations Command inspector general during a deployment to Norway.

Hill also is an active member of the community. As a Big Brother, he has made a big impact on the life of his teenage little brother, who often accompanies him to Air Guard events.

Hill is a tutor for elementary school students with special learning needs.

He frequently assists the KyANG recruiters at community and recruiting events.

The NCO recently completed his bachelor's degree in justice administration, graduating magna cum laude from the University of Louisville.

Jackson, a communications and navigation specialist with the 123rd Maintenance Squadron, is the KyANG's outstanding airman of the year.

A member of the unit for just over three years, he deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Southern Watch last year.

His commander, Maj. Johnny Jones, said Jackson was the unanimous choice for the maintenance squadron's outstanding airman.

"He does anything you ask in an outstanding manner and

goes above and beyond all expectations," Jones said.

In civilian life, Jackson is a computer science student at the University of Louisville and a LAN technician at United Parcel Service.

His computer expertise has been a tremendous bonus for the KyANG. Many guard members are familiar with Jackson through his volunteer work with the 123rd Communications Flight as a computer specialist and trouble shooter around base.

Jackson also is a member of the KyANG Honor Guard and participates in military funerals, parades and public events.

In spite of being one of the better known airmen on base, Jackson was surprised that he was selected as airman of the year.

"It felt great," he said of the honor. "Just the fact that I was nominated was incredible."

Allen, Hill and Jackson will be honored at a special dinner April 4th.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. David Orange at ext. 4444. 📞



123rd Special Tactics Flight

**Tech. Sgt. William Hill, a combat controller with the 123rd Special Tactics Flight, demonstrates the use of parachute gear at Mt. Washington Elementary School. The NCO of the year is a leader in the community as well as the Guard.**

# Conaway chronicles modern Guard's growth

Former Kentucky Air Guard commander John Conaway, who rose to the rank of lieutenant general and established a record 17-year tenure at the Pentagon, has coauthored a book on his career and the history of the modern National Guard.

As chief of the National Guard Bureau from 1990-1993, Conaway had a ringside seat to some of the most challenging events ever to face our nation's citizen-soldiers, including the mobilization of 80,000 Guard troops for operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

The book, "Call Out the Guard," details Conaway's thoughts during these tumultuous times, which makes for compelling reading.

But it also examines the amazing growth of the Army and Air National Guard in recent years, making it far more than another general's trip down memory lane.

With forwards by both U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford of Kentucky and U.S. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi, Conaway's book offers an honest view of the National Guard as it faced difficult is-

## "Call Out the Guard"

By Lt. Gen. John B. Conaway  
with Jeff Nelligan



Turner Publishing Company  
360 pages  
ISBN 1-56311-372-4

sues like downsizing and increasing operational tempos.

The general, whose military career spanned five decades, also writes about the growing pains of the nation as it

struggled with unprecedented social change.

From the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., to the beating of Rodney King and the ensuing riots in South Central Los Angeles, Conaway reflects upon the growing racial tension in America.

"Call Out The Guard" probably won't make the best-seller list, but it does speak plainly about the military's role in the shaping of American policy — and about the importance of the National Guard in shaping the military's modern agenda.

For those who have a link to the Bluegrass State, the book does mention Kentucky quite frequently — especially the Kentucky Air National Guard and a few of its current and former members.

"Call Out The Guard" is an interesting and thought-provoking work that is well worth reading. It is Lt. Gen. John Conaway's story, but it is also the story of the National Guard.

And that is a story that should be told.

— *Tech. Sgt. John R. Martin*  
123rd Airlift Wing Historian

## Promotions & honors in the Kentucky Air Guard

*The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the U.S. Air Force:*

### TO AIRMAN (E-2)

- Stephanie Hazle,  
123rd Services Flt.
- Daniel Marks,  
123rd Student Flt.

### TO AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- Paul Blackburn Jr.,  
165th Airlift Sq.

### TO SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- Tyra Allen,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- David Chester,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.

- Christina Embry,  
123rd Mission Support Flt.

- Jessica Farquhar,  
123rd Communications Flt.

- Kevin Gaud,  
123rd Maintenance Sq.

- Robert Johnson,  
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Andrew Walters,  
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

### TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- Jason Lainhart,  
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Nora Weidemeyer,  
123rd Aerial Port Sq.

### TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- Freda Britain,  
123rd Operations Grp.

- Thomas Deschane,  
123rd Special Tactics Flt.

- Angela Haagen,  
165th Weather Flt.

- Joan Hazle,  
123rd Airlift Wing

### TO MAJOR (O-4)

- Mary McCallie,  
123rd Communications Flt.

*The following servicemember distinguished himself and his unit through outstanding academic achievement:*

- Staff Sgt. James Smith Jr.,  
123rd Mission Support Flt.  
**Distinguished Graduate Award,**  
Airman Leadership School,  
Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.



## Chief of staff reinforces core values

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan is reinforcing the importance of the service's core values with an open letter to all Air Force members.

"I would like to share my thoughts on our core values and how important they are in all aspects of our lives," the letter states.

"Our core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do — set the common standard for conduct across the Air Force.

"These values inspire the trust which provides the unbreakable bond that unites the force.

"We must practice them ourselves and expect no less from those with whom we serve."

## AAFES shopping now on Internet

The Army-Air Force Exchange Service now offers on-line shopping through the World Wide Web.

Customers with Internet access can purchase selected catalog items through the AAFES Web site, including cameras, electronics, furnishings and a comprehensive assortment of uniform items.

Shoppers are required to enter their social security numbers before purchasing so AAFES can verify eligibility.

The site is at [www.aafes.com/](http://www.aafes.com/).

## Center has answers on safety, health

The Human Systems Center at Brooks Air Force Base has established a telephone center for questions on safety and occupational health. The center can be reached at 1 (888) 232-3764. ☎

# Safety team recommends changes after C-130 study

Air Force News Service

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — The team appointed to conduct a review of flight safety issues associated with the C-130 aircraft has completed its report.

That team, headed by Maj. Gen. Bobby O. Floyd, Air Mobility Command director of logistics, was also chartered by the secretary of the Air Force to look into the Nov. 22, 1996, accident involving the HC-130P from the 939th Rescue Wing that crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

Key recommendations the team has made include the following:

- The Air Force should review and update

the existing lead command directive to reflect changes that have occurred since the stateside theater airlift fleet transferred from Air Combat Command to Air Mobility Command in April 1997.

•It should ensure that cockpit instrumentation and aircraft modifications are standardized across a fleet of like aircraft and that the manuals used to maintain and operate the aircraft are up to date, easy to read and standardized across the fleet.

•The Air Force should consider Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board guidelines and experiences in arriving at a standardized set of digital flight data recorder flight parameters. This would ensure that essential flight data is captured for evaluation in future incidents and accidents.

•The Air Force should review ditching and bailout procedures. Specifically, it should analyze previous ditching events and use this data to update and standardize flight manuals with a discussion of ditching survivability and techniques.

- It should ensure that the information

concerning bailout in the flight manuals is consistent between models.

•The Air Force needs to require crews to review these procedures on the first leg of each over-water mission.

•The Air Force should establish a standard life support equipment requirement for each mission design series.

•The Air Force should fully fund a program to completely rewrite its C-130 technical orders and also fund an initiative currently under way to convert technical manuals from paper format to digital. New CD-ROM technology will make updating the technical manuals easier and less expensive.

- The Air Force should recover selected

wreckage from King 56 — rescue aircraft — particularly the wing section, the fuselage tanks and the cockpit fuel gauges. These items would answer many open questions and provide additional information concerning various possible fuel-related scenarios.

The review team studied the safety

history of the C-130, examined aircrew training and observed C-130 crew members and maintenance people on the job to get a firsthand look at any problems they may have encountered.

Experts from Air Force Headquarters, Air Mobility Command, Air Force Materiel Command and both the Guard and Reserve, along with a representative from the National Transportation Safety Board, comprised the review team.

The C-130 is considered to be one of the workhorses among military aircraft

C-130s have flown more than 14 million hours since entering the Air Force inventory in the mid-1950s, and the aircraft boasts one of the lowest accident rates among the Air Force's aircraft inventory — about half the overall Air Force rate for fiscal 1997.

## Suggested Changes

- Cockpit instrumentation and modifications should be standardized
- FAA and NTSB guidelines should be consulted to establish flight data recorder requirements
- C-130 technical orders should be completely rewritten
- Life support equipment requirements should be standardized
- Ditching procedures should be reviewed

# Kentucky 'caretaker' recalls unit's past

*Editor's note: Col. Carl H. Lochner Jr. served as the Kentucky Air Guard's first full-time officer, known in the 1940s and '50s as a "caretaker." The Louisville native recently shared his memories with Tech. Sgt. John Martin, the 123rd Airlift Wing historian.*

*This is the final installment of a two-part series based on those interviews.*

**QUESTION:** Can you tell us about some of the people you served with in the early days of the Kentucky Air Guard, like Lt. Col. Lee Merkel, who served as wing commander from 1948 until his death in a plane crash in 1956.

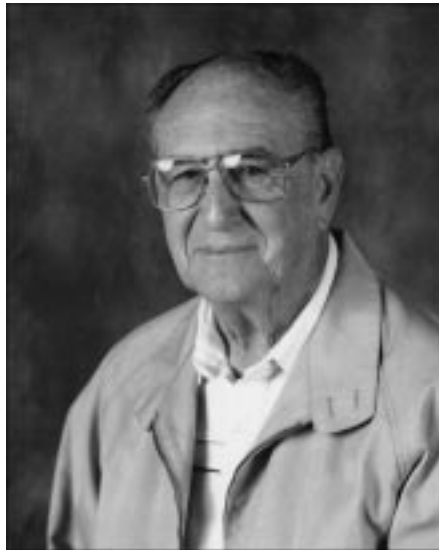
**ANSWER:** There are so many people and activities that can be recalled. Some you can never forget.

The Merkel and Lochner families became very good friends, and we visited together during the early start of the Kentucky Air Guard. We were not in Louisville when Lee Merkel died, and I was shocked to receive the news.

Another very good friend was Reverend William Slider. Bill wanted to join the Guard and become its Chaplain. We did all the paper work and sent it in through channels.

The National Guard Bureau would not accept his transcript from the bible college he attended, and we never got him in as a federally approved chaplain. He did volunteer to be our chaplain as a non-recognized officer. He is now one of the most outstanding ministers in Louisville and very active in community projects.

**QUESTION:** Did you know Thomas



LOCHNER

Mantell, whose plane crashed after he reported seeing a "flying disk" near Franklin, Ky.?

**ANSWER:** I knew Tom Mantell very well. He was an excellent officer. I can't believe that there was not something there (that Mantell saw when his aircraft crashed).

I don't believe that he was chasing a piece of paper flying around. There is no question in my mind that he saw something. He ran out of oxygen. We know that. But he saw something.

Nobody is ever going to convince me otherwise, 'cause he was a level headed guy. There were two pilots flying together that day, and the other pilot said he was out of oxygen and was returning to the base.

Mantell said, "I've got to see what it is," or something like that. He was too good a pilot and too good an individual. We will never really know what it was.

**QUESTION:** How has the guard changed over the years?

**ANSWER:** It appears to me that the Guard is more of a recognized unit. Of course, the world situation has changed too.

Back in the early days, there was not the interest by our country to be a part of everything going on elsewhere.

At the present time, our Kentucky Air National Guard is as much a part of the world situation as most active duty units. You are always hauling supplies and people to Bosnia as well as other places.

Also, when we were new to the force structure, we started with about 30 some caretakers, later adding a few more, up to about 60, when we were activated.

I don't know how many you have now, but you deserve it all. I think the Air Guard now is just fantastic. If I weren't over 78 years old, I'd like to be a part of it.

**Trivia from December:** Who was Samuel Joseph, and what unenviable record did he hold?

**Answer:** The Kentucky native and World War II veteran suffered more war-related injuries — 102 — than any other American.

**Correction:** December's trivia answer incorrectly identified one of the Kentucky Air Guard's five major generals. They were, in chronological order, Philip Ardery, Richard L. Frymire Jr., John Conaway, Carl Black and Stewart Byrne.

## Vision

Continued from Page 2

tions Council to fulfill this vision.

It is a given that the 123rd is a military organization, but I included it in our vision statement because it is central to what we do. There was a time not long ago when the military aspect of the Air National Guard was downplayed because our society was going in a differ-

ent direction. We talked about acting like a business, had gatherings instead of formations and generally downplayed the idea that we are a military organization with certain military traditions and symbols.

People join the 123rd because they like the military and they want to do military things. We must always remember that, and strive to honor our military traditions and responsibilities.

People may join the unit for education benefits or the travel, but they will stay only

if we live the traditional military values of duty, honor and country.

I have written quite a lot on just five words because it is important that we fully understand what we want to become. Next month I will focus on the next phrase, and maybe when we are finished with the whole thing, we will have everyone singing the same song. I ask for your support.

Thank You!

*Michael R. Stahl*